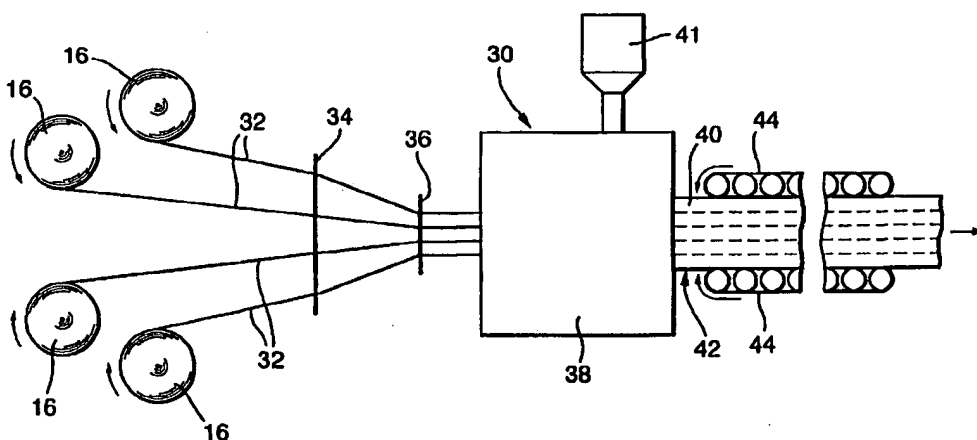




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(54) Title: FIBRE REINFORCED COMPOSITES AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

**(57) Abstract**

A method is disclosed for producing a fibre reinforced composite by pultrusion having variable strength characteristics along its length including the steps of drawing through a pultrusion die (38) a series of reinforcing fibres (32) to form a pultruded fibre composite product. The method is characterized by incorporating in the reinforcing fibres (14) prior to the pultrusion step additional fibres (20) to form modified fibres (32) having a characteristic such as tenacity or modulus different from that of the first said reinforcing fibres (14) in order to vary the strength characteristics of the final composite (42) substantially without altering the cross-sectional area thereof. A curable or settable plastics material (40) is applied around the fibres during the pultrusion step and which is cured, part-cured or allowed to set to form the finished composite (42).